(In '000 tonnes)
(Data provisional)

	Power		Steel		Cement	
	96-97	97-98	96-97	97-98	96-97	97-98
Linkages/Programmes	9466	12855	5860	4567	299	309
Supplies	9278	9342	4184	4262	187	207

Coal requirement of Railways are decided by the Chief Mining Adviser, Railway Board, Dhanbad on all India basis and the supplies made to Railways are being distributed to their own consuming sectors by themselves. The requirement of Railways is showing a downward trend. 0.13 mt. and 0.05 mt. coal was supplied to Railways durign 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively for their all India consumption.

(c) and (d) The sector-wise demand and supply position of coal shows some gap. The reasons for the same are as follows:—

(i) There is no dearth of coal for power sector. However, because of less off-take by power houses there has been less supply of coal in comparison to linkage. Sometimes coal supply is restricted due to non payment.

(ii) Though there is no shortage of coal for cement plants, due to general recession in the economy they have restricted the off-take.

(iii) Integrated steel plants need high grade coking coal. Domestic production is not adequate to meet their demand of coking coal of high specification. They are importing low ash coking coal for the purpose of mixing with the indigenous coal.

(e) Coal companies are fully capable to meet the requirement of power and cement sectors in the State of Bihar. Regular liasion is being maintained with individual consumers and Railways to ensure adequate off-take of coal. As regards supply of washed coal to the steel sector, indigenous coal is being washed to meet their requirement. However, a portion is also met by the units importing coking coal.

Mining rights to Nippon Denro Ispat Ltd.

1559. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nippon Denro Ispat Limited group has been given Mining rights near Bhadravati Ordnance Factory in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any irregularities has been noticed by Government in the allotment;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The rights for mining of coal anywhere in the country are given to a company through grant of a coal mining lease by the concerned State Government. As per the provisions of Section 5(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act (MMRD Act), 1957, a coal mining lease can be granted by the concerned State Government only with the previous approval of the Central Government. No previous approval of the Central Government under Section 5(1) of the MMRD Act, 1957 has no far been given to the proposal of Government of Maharashtra to grant a coal mining lease to M/s Central India Coal Company Limited (CICCO), a company promoted by M/s Ispat Industries Limited (formerly known as M/s Nippon Denro Ispat Limited) to mine coal near ordnance factory, Chanda in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra for supply of coal on exclusive basis to the proposed Bhadravati Thermal Power Project. Therefore, no coal mining lease has so far been granted to M/s CICCO for the purpose by Government of Maharashtra and consequently no coal mining rights have been given to the company.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of the answer given to Part (a) of the question.